

In the Specification:

Page 1, between line 2(title) and line 3 (first line of first paragraph), please insert the following heading: **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION .**

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Page 2, between text line 14 and 15, i.e. between the second full paragraph and the third full paragraph, please insert the following heading: **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.**

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In the Abstract:

Please replace the current abstract with the following amended abstract:

Abstract of the Disclosure

The method of the present invention includes pretreating fibers to be dyed by anionic direct dye compounds with physiologically compatible salts of inorganic or organic acids for improving absorption of the anionic direct dye compounds. The preferred salt ingredient is sodium chloride, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, calcium pantothenate or mixtures thereof. A multi-component kit for the non-oxidative dyeing of fibers according to the method of the invention is also provided. One component of the kit contains the anionic direct dyes and the other contains the physiologically compatible salts.

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